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*Concerning bills of health at ports of Porto Rico.*SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO, *November 8, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that the question of the issuance of bills of health, especially of supplemental bills at the subports, has been illy understood, due to the changing of the military collectors of customs and also the delegating of consular duties to the collector of customs for Porto Rico. * * *

After a conference with Major Davis, the collector of customs for Porto Rico, a circular was issued to all ports, making a decision as per copy inclosed. I then issued copies of the accompanying circular letter to the sanitary inspectors of the subports in regard to the matter.
* * *

Respectfully,

A. H. GLENNAN,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., In Command.

[Inclosure No. 1.]

*To all collectors:*SAN JUAN, *November 7, 1899.*

Foreign vessels coming to this island are usually provided with bills of health covering the voyage to ultimate destination, with ports named in Porto Rico at which they may call. Upon leaving ports of Porto Rico, they should, for their own protection, on entering ports in the United States or other ports where quarantine regulations are enforced, be provided with supplemental bills of health from each port at which they may have entered. These bills of health are furnished by the sanitary inspector of each port.

I construe the consular regulations as not requiring verification of either original or supplemental bills of health.

CHAS. L. DAVIS,
*Major, Eleventh United States Infantry,
Collector of Customs for Porto Rico, Performing Consular Service.*

[Inclosure No. 2.—Circular letter.]

SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO, *November 8, 1899.*

Under a decision of the collector of customs for Porto Rico, it is construed that the Consular Regulations do not require verification of either original or supplemental bills of health.

You are, therefore, hereby informed that hereafter bills of health, both original and supplemental, will be signed only by the port sanitary inspectors, and no charge will be made for issuing the same.

Before delivering the bills of health, however, you should ascertain that the vessel has been cleared by the custom-house authorities.

Respectfully,

A. H. GLENNAN,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., Quarantine Inspector.
Sanitary Inspectors, Subports of Porto Rico.

*Report from San Juan and subports.*SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO, *November 7, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following consolidated report of the operations of the Service at this station and the 5 subports for the month of October, 1899:

Number of births reported.....	60
Number of births reported, October, 1898 (comparative).....	54
Number of deaths reported.....	72
Number of deaths reported, October, 1898 (comparative).....	97
A list of the causes of death is inclosed.	
Number of vessels inspected.....	36
Number of vessels inspected, October, 1898 (comparative).....	52
Number of vessels in observation quarantine.....	2